

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05353 291507Z

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4243

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FOR CU/NEA

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: USEGJC

SUBJECT: AIN SHAMS ENGLISH TEACHING PROJECT

REF: STATE 113262

1. EMBASSY IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH APPROACH TO AIN SHAMS ENGLISH TEACHING PROJECT OUTLINED REFTEL. BELIEVE CENTER APPROACH OFFERS BEST METHOD TO PURSUE GOAL OF GENERAL UPGRADING OF ENGLISH TEACHING STANDARDS.

2. ON SUBJECT OF TEFL DEGREE ACCEPTANCE, EMBASSY LEARNED DURING TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SERVING ON ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE THAT CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK TO RECOGNITION OF MA-TEFL IS LACK OF ANY COMPARABLE DEGREE PROGRAM IN EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES. THERE IS NO MECHANISM FOR RECOGNIZING DEGREES WHICH HAVE NO EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY COUNTERPART. WE HAVE EXPLORED WITH EGYPTIAN JWG (E&C) CHAIRMAN DR. HASSAN ISMAIL, AIN SHAMS PRESIDENT DR. MOHAMMED MAHALLAWI, AND SECOND-RANKING ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBER (DEAN OF FACULTY OF ARTS, CAIRO UNIVERSITY) INDIVIDUALLY POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING MA-TEF IN AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERICAN PROJECT AND SIMULTANEOUSLY REQUESTING RECOGNITION OF MA-TEFL DEGREE AWARDED BY AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. ALL FEEL THAT THIS IS A SOUND APPROACH TO DEGREE RECOGNITION PROBLEM AND SAID THEY WOULD PERSONALLY SUPPORT ANY SUCH MOVE. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT TEFL DEGREE WHICH REQUIRED THESIS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEST CHANCE OF

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 05353 291507Z

OBTAINING EGYPTIAN ACCREDITATION. PRESENT THINKING IS THAT

ENGLISH TEACHING CENTER WOULD PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MANDATORY TEFL COURSE WORK FOR AIN SHAMS TEFL DEGREE PROGRAM, IF INITIATED. IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE SPECIAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AS PART OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING FACET OF PROGRAM.

3. MAHALLAWI FEELS THAT CENTER WOULD BE BEST LOCATED IN FACULTY OF EDUCATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES. HOWEVER, BOTH HE AND DR. ISMAIL AGREE THAT IT SHOULD HAVE A SEPARATE IDENTITY AND NOT BE A PART OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NOR UNDER HELMY'S SUPERVISION. HELMY MIGHT BE MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OR BOARD SUPERVISING PROJECT, BUT ISMAIL AND MAHALLAWI ENDORSE IDEA OF APPOINTING EGYPTIAN DIRECTOR OF CENTER AND DR. ISMAIL ALREADY HAS AT LEAST ONE POSSIBLE CANDIDATE IN MIND.

4. EMBASSY HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT LINKING AIN SHAMS PROJECT WITH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAIRO (AUC) AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AUC HOLD CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF ALL INCOMING AMERICAN PROFESSORS, FACT REMAINS THAT AUC SHOULD BE VIEWED ACADEMICALLY AS SEPARATE INSTITUTION IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS ANY OTHER COOPERATING AMERICAN OR EGYPTIAN INSTITUTION WOULD BE VIEWED. WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR IN AUC FACULTY AS EITHER TEACHER OR SUPERVISOR OF STUDENTS. OBVIOUSLY THERE WOULD BE GREAT DEAL OF INTERCHANGE BETWEEN PROJECT MEMBERS AND AUC'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE STAFF, BUT BELIEVE THIS BEST DONE ON INFORMAL BASIS AND THAT AUC'S FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS NATIONAL CENTER BE THE SAME AS THAT OF EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES.

5. IN MEMO FROM DEAN OF FACULTY OF EDUCATION AT AIN SHAMS TO DR. ISMAIL (FORWARDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER TO JANE ALDEN), IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT AIN SHAMS WOULD UNDERTAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE FOR PROJECT. DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH ISMAIL AND MAHALLAWI IT WAS LEARNED THAT AIN SHAMS HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANSHIET EL-BAKRY IN-SERVICE TRAINING CENTER AND UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OFFICIALS AGREE THAT FACILITIES OF IN-SERVICE CENTER WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PROJECT ON AT LEAST PART TIME BASIS. OFFICE SPACE HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND, BUT ISMAIL AND MAHALLAWI ASSURE US THAT ANY ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 05353 291507Z

CAN BE OVERCOME. MAHALLAWI IS NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR CENTER IN FUTURE YEARS, INCLUDING CENTER SPACE IN UNIVERSITY'S BUILDING PLANS, ETC.

6. BELIEVE THAT AS RESULT OF PRATOR VISIT, ALL EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT HAVE MUCH CLEARER IDEA OF PROJECT GOAL AND PREFERRED STRUCTURE FOR ATTAINING THAT GOAL. NOW THAT BOTH ISMAIL AND MAHALLAWI BACK PROJECT, EMBASSY BELIEVES WORKABLE

APPROACH CAN BE FOUND TO ACCOMMODATE PRIORITIES OF ALL PARTIES.  
PREPARATORY YEAR WILL BE BEST SPENT IN WORKING OUT DETAILS OF  
PROJECT AND FIRING UP SUPPORT BASE AT AIN SHAMS.  
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